

# THE MORNING NEWS

**Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.**

# Budget

- "AN INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED BUDGET SYSTEM LICENSEE"**

**The next edition will be on Tuesday, April 10, 2012.**

# HRH Princess Laurentien of The Netherlands inaugurates new Bon Bini Festival at Fort Zoutman

*Continued on page 4*

Wishing everyone Happy Easter Holidays!



Happy Easter

*May Christ's message of eternal life fill you with love.*





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## Fraud investigator Jose Camacho: “Skimming and harvesting practices on the rise during tourist high season”

The Caribbean islands, as any other tourist destination in the world, are particularly vulnerable to criminal organizations seeking to carry out fraudulent activities, during the tourist high season. As the number of daily visitors increases on the islands, and many use credit cards and US Dollars as methods of payment, opportunities arise for fraudsters, seeking ideal conditions for their operations.

In addition to the large number of potential victims, merchants tend to have temporary employees working, to fulfill the

additional commerce generated. These workers might not be as vigilant or astute in watching for strange occurrences, such as ATM's being tampered with. “These are exactly the kind of weaknesses that fraudsters take into consideration prior to their endeavor.” Says Jose Camacho, who for 25 years has led the investigation of mayor cases concerning payment frauds worldwide for respected entities like American Express, the US Federal Court, the FBI and the US Secret Service.

Camacho states that the

problem of payment fraud and currency counterfeit is large and growing, as outcomes remain extremely profitable and most countries' laws don't permit severe punishment on individuals committing economic crimes: “Typically a fraudster would receive a lesser sentence of confinement, than a criminal who uses violence when robbing a merchant.” Exact numbers of the Caribbean region remain unknown, as many business entities prefer not to share their experiences with the public. One indicator

of how the problem affects our geographical area is the fact that many countries choose to redesign their currency frequently, even at a costly price.

Today's environment is threatened by criminal organizations that travel the globe, carrying out their fraudulent acts in a very organized man-

ner. The level of expertise can differ, however it is not uncommon for these groups of individuals to be technologically savvy, and have invested time, effort and money in appropriating their knowledge and equipment through local vendors and the internet.

*Continued on page 3*



## Community Passover Seder to be at Scabeche Restaurant on Friday

Parallel with Good Friday this coming weekend will be the first two Seders of Passover. Interested Parties are welcome to join the congregation of Temple Beth Israel for their traditional community observance, this year to start on Friday evening, April 6 at Scabeche Restaurant in the Caribbean Palm Villas in Noord.

Services and a traditional dinner will begin at 7:00 PM. The restaurant's kitchen will go through a thorough koshering process on Friday morning, right down to the plates and silverware, under the watchful eye of Rabbi Dr. Mario Gurevich, spiritual leader of Aruba's Jewish community.

Traditional prayers, the four questions and the hunt for the Afikomen for the youngsters are all part of the annual ritual. The menu will include fresh made gefilte fish, matzoh ball soup, each table will have their own Seder Plate and chicken



**The seder-plate**

as a main course.


A short Kabalat beginning at 6:30 will precede the Passover service and dinner, as it is the beginning of the Sabbath. Tickets for services and dinner are \$75 for adults and \$35 for children; reservations can be made with Rabbi Dr. Gurevich via e-mail: rabbiaruba@gmail.com, or by calling 582-3272, or pass by the temple at Adriaan Lacle Boulevard #2 in Oranjestad.

**LA Linda N.V.**

*Wishing everyone a Blessed and*

**HAPPY**

**EASTER**





# Easter Brunch

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*La Vista*

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## Aruban kids invited to join creativity competition

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba Tourism Authority together with the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) invites Aruban kids to join a very diverse creativity competition.

This promises to be a great pastime for our kids during the upcoming vacation period. The competition is for kids between the ages of 12 and younger (junior) and for children between 13 to 16 years of age (senior).

The objective of the competition is for children to create an "Environmental Poster." Through this competition the ATA and FCCA want to stimulate our children to become more conscious of our environment. The children must demonstrate on their poster



three ways how Aruba can make a difference in preserving our environment.

Each child should give their poster a title and write a short description of their poster. Kids should pay attention too that the poster and their written description must be in the English language. This is because

winners will be participating in a competition of members of FCCA in the Caribbean. The poster must be 22"x28" in size and will be judged based on its creativity, relevance of the theme, content and the quality of the design. The poster may be done in color, or in black and white. It may be a collage of whatever means the child chooses, such as, for example, paint, markers, color pencils, ect.

Children interested in participating should contact the head of their school for more information, or they can download the requirements and the registration form at [www.aruba.com/fcca](http://www.aruba.com/fcca), and submit this to the head of their school.

*Continued on page 4*

## Hop along to La Vista Restaurant for a fun filled Easter Sunday Brunch



Aruba Marriott is ready for Easter Sunday and is preparing an extensive, delicious brunch at La Vista. On Sunday April 8, you and your family are invited for a festive Easter Brunch. La Vista's wide-ranging Easter brunch starts at 7 am and will continue until 2 pm. A variety of food selections is offered; omelet station, eggs benedict, vanilla pancakes, and homemade pastechis. In addition the buffet offers be peel and eat shrimp, a smoked salmon display and baked grouper in tomato basil cream. The carving station will feature garlic spiked prime rib and glazed pineapple honey baked ham. To top it off fresh baked muffins and pastries, mouth watering desserts and a variety of fresh fruits and fruit smoothies.

The Easter Sunday Brunch at La Vista can be enjoyed at a price of \$34.95 per person. Kids between 5 till 12 years eat for half of the price and kids under 5 years eat free. A reservation is not needed at La Vista; it is first come, first serve. During the brunch the Easter Bunny will be present for the egg hunt and kids can enjoy face painting.

La Vista is located at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino and offers a kids corner, a lounge bar, indoor as well as outdoor seating areas where you can enjoy the fresh breeze of the-- ocean and a magnificent view of Aruba's marvelous blue ocean. The staff of La Vista invites everyone to come and celebrate Easter Sunday with family and friends.

## Skimming and harvesting practices . . .

*Continued from page 2*

"Thus, it is a wide open enterprise and banks, card companies and private issuers are addressing different fraud deterrent measures constantly," according to Camacho, who will be the main speaker at the "Mind Your Eye" international conference on currency counterfeit and credit card fraud in Aruba this June.

Skimming and harvesting practices are particularly common in bars, clubs,

restaurants and gas stations. However banks in South America are also very familiar with frauds at ATM-machines, involving card scanning devices, miniature cameras, ghost keypads and in some cases the hacking of ATM-software. The most costly type of fraud continues to be credit card fraud, which affects millions of people every year.

M H

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# Easter Special

## 3-COURSE MENU

**Appetizer:** Cream of Broccoli Soup or Caesar Salad  
**Entrée:** Skirt Steak or Fish Fry, deep fried fish in batter  
**Dessert:** Sorbet or Crepes with Dulce de Leche

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## Aruban kids invited...

Continued from page 3

The completed "Environmental Poster" should be submitted to the school that the child attends, and it is the school that will select a winner in each category. Those posters selected will be submitted to ATA on April 23rd. The ATA team will then select one winner in each category which in turn will be sent to

Miami for the final competition.

The winners selected by FCCA will receive very attractive prizes including US\$3000 for the winning poster. Automatically, the school of the winning child will receive the same amount as their prize.

Aruba Tourism Association (ATA) encourages our children

of Aruba to participate in this excellent competition and to demonstrate their intelligence, and interest in our environment and to show the creativity of our future generation. For more information, you may contact Gloria Vega at 582-3777 ext.242, or Shadira Fingal at 582-3777 ext.269.

## HRH Princess Laurentien of The Netherlands inaugurates new Bon Bini Festival...

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Folkloric Dancers at the Historical Museum

HRH Princess Laurentien has been a vigorous advocate of literacy programs and laws in Holland; she was visiting Aruba for the launch of the Papiamentu version of the children's book she authored, "Mr. Finney and the Other Side of the Water," which was very much inspired by Aruba's concern about climate change and effects it will have on island nations.

Greeting the visiting princess and her family at the door of the museum were not only the cast and crew of show along with museum and Fort Zoutman staff, but they were very pleasantly surprised and amused by a larger-than-life Mr. Finny, a dolphin/human hybrid who is the main character of her books. His search for answers



Princess Laurentien meets a larger than life Mr Finny

to hard questions about the environment and the damage it has been done, are charmingly woven into her children's tales, simultaneously encouraging reading and a concern for the eco-system.

by Rosalie Klein

**PLUS**  
**accountants**  
**THE FOCUS IS ON YOU!**

The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.



to everyone





In spite of the economic and financial challenges of 2011, our results were satisfying and should be a clear indication of our belief that Aruba is a great place to do business. Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V. will continue to invest and seize those opportunities to create employment and well being for a better community as a whole.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL POSITION



#### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS IN AMOUNTS (AFL)

	2011	2010
Total Assets	1,328,697,000	1,275,698,000
Total Customer Deposits	1,120,457,000	1,105,142,000
Total Loans and Advances	858,534,000	798,386,000
Shareholders Equity	141,192,000	127,909,000
Net Profit After Tax	43,964,000	40,019,000

#### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS IN PERCENTAGES (%)

Growth in Total Assets	4.15%
Growth in Total Customer Deposits	1.39%
Growth in Loans and Advances	7.53%
Growth in Net Profit After Tax	9.86%

#### OTHER KEY DATA OF THE CMB GROUP

	2011	2010
Staff	285	271
Branches	6	6
Bancomatico ATMs	45	42
Client Accounts	178,817	166,234

#### INCOME STATEMENT

The income presented in our financial statements represents the total income for all 4 companies operating onshore and international businesses based in Aruba. International business and investment activities are a key source and contributor to the bank's consolidated income. Net Profits after tax in accordance with Central Bank of Aruba's guidelines were almost AFL. 44 million.

All business areas contributed to these results and the net result after tax grew in 2011 by 9.9%.

From CMB NV's total revenues, 27% went to paying personnel expenses, 21% to paying other operating expenses, 13% to paying taxes, 2% to strengthening our reserve for banking risks, and 37% to net profit, hence an appropriate distribution among all stakeholders.

#### FINANCIAL POSITION

CMB NV's consolidated total assets at the end of December 2011 totaled AFL. 1,329 million, for an increase of 4.2%.

The total of loans and advances to customers increased by 7.5% over 2010.

Our customer deposits showed an increase of 1.4%.

At the end of December 2011, the book value of CMB NV's Stockholders' Equity surpassed 141 million florin. As a result, CMB NV. has a stronger capital base and is well positioned for the future. This solid capital base is a key strength that our communities and clients can depend on as we build for the future.

#### TAXES

CMB NV. paid AFL. 16 million in profit taxes in 2011. This amount combined with employee wage and foreign exchange taxes resulted in CMB NV. facilitating Land Aruba with amounts in excess of 32 million florin. Over the past ten years CMB NV. has contributed well over 215 million florin to Aruba's tax revenues.

#### EMPLOYMENT

At the end of 2011, CMB NV. directly employed 285 persons. During the year, CMB NV. paid its employees total salaries and employee benefits amounting to AFL. 32.4 million.

#### COMMUNITY

CMB NV. generously donated and financially sponsored approximately AFL. 470,000 to neighborhood, religious and sports organizations and to institutions benefiting the youth. Not included in these monetary figures is the assistance given by our volunteer staff to the young and the elderly, in organizations and in homes for the aged.

#### LOANS

A considerable portion of our loans portfolio is managed by Retail Loans, a division that achieved significant results by offering attractive mortgage and consumer lending products.

#### DANK!

Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V. wants to thank its customers, employees, directors, affiliate, The Bank of Nova Scotia, and shareholder, Maduro & Curiel's Bank N.V., for their patronage and support, thereby making the year 2011 a successful one. Pabien!

For the full Consolidated Financial Highlights for the financial years 2011 and 2010, the Explanatory Notes to the Consolidated Financial Highlights, and the Auditors' Report thereto from KPMG Accountants B.V., please write to:

Annual Report 2011, P.O. Box 28, Caya G.F. Betico Croes 53 - Oranjestad, Aruba, for a free copy of our 2011 Annual Report.

## Bringing Autism into focus on Aruba

ORANJESTAD -- The landmark "I Love Aruba" in front of City Hall building, was highlighted recently on World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) with a display of a blue background poster of World Autism Awareness Day affixed to its red heart. Everyone, including thousands of cruise tourists and locals stopped to reflect on WAAD.

Autism is a disorder in the neurological development which affects primarily the area of communication. The goal is to stimulate recognition of the signals of an autistic person, preferably from the earliest years of a child, so that the child can receive the necessary guidance and support to be able to learn communication skills.

Fundacion Autismo Aruba, together with other instances are working diligently on increasing their knowledge of being able to recognize autism and to create a line of understanding on all levels. They hope to one day have a structural procedure to service the interests of all persons on the island with autistic children and their families. The objective is to get these children to also participate actively in the local community.

World Autism Awareness Day was proclaimed by the United Nations. Globally they hold activities similar to what we do here to make people more aware of people with autism and to lend a hand wherever that is possible. Statistics from the Center For Disease Control in the USA have shown that the incidence of autism is alarming, which makes it very difficult to provide adequate support and facilities for the disease and its sufferers.

## Dutch Navy led operation results in 500 kg cocaine drug bust

THE CARIBBEAN -- An international counterdrug operation on the high Caribbean seas leads to a significant drug bust of 500 kg of cocaine, the Royal Netherlands Navy in Curaçao discloses. As the case is currently under investigation, information could not have been released earlier.

As part of Operation Martillo, the commander of the Netherlands Forces in the Caribbean directed the US frigate USS Elrod to intercept after the Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard maritime patrol aircraft 'Dash 8' sighted a fast moving 'go fast' speedboat.

While Elrod's helicopter

managed to bring the chase to a halt, the suspected drug runners on board the 'go fast' started to throw their cargo over board in an attempted to escape capture.

The vigilant 'Dash 8' had remained on station however and kept track of the contraband while the US Coast Guard law detachment on

board Elrod took 4 persons on board the 'go fast' into custody. When tests proved the retrieved cargo to be cocaine, the 4 persons on board were arrested.

The USS Elrod is scheduled for a port visit to Curaçao, where a change of command of the US Navy frigate will take place.

Operation Martillo is a multi-national collaborative effort to counter the spread of transnational organized crime in Central America. It is a operation lead by the Joint Inter-agency Task Force South and denies organized crime networks the ability to conduct illicit trafficking via targeted air and maritime domains.



**Thursdays**

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## Clinton warns Iran time not 'infinite' for talks

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Wednesday warned Iran that time was not "infinite" for diplomacy and that "all options remain on the table" after a dispute over the venue of talks.

Clinton said that the European Union would look into setting a time and place for long-moribund talks on Iran's nuclear program but vowed that the United States would maintain "strong pressure" to address concerns.

"We want to see a peaceful resolution of the international community's concerns, but the time for diplomacy is not infinite and all options remain on the table to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon," Clinton said.

"Until Iran comes into compliance with its international obligations and demonstrates the peaceful intent of its nuclear program, they will continue to face strong pressure and isolation," she said.

"So the sooner that we can begin talks, the better it will be," she said at a joint news conference with Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci.

Clinton had earlier said that

the talks between Iran and six world powers -- Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States -- would begin on April 13 in Istanbul.

But Iran said Tuesday that it objected to holding the talks in Turkey, which cut imports of oil from its neighbor in response to US threats of sanctions.

Instead, according to Iraq's foreign ministry, Iran has formally requested Baghdad hold the April 13-14 negotiations.

Clinton said that EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton was working with Iran to determine the details of the talks.

"We understand that these consultations are at an advanced stage and we expect that Lady Ashton will formally announce the date and place of the talks once it is finally confirmed," Clinton said.

Israel has voiced growing impatience with Iran, leading to speculation it may launch a military strike. Israel and some Western officials fear that Iran is developing a nuclear weapon, but Tehran says its work is for peaceful pur-

poses.

The last round of talks between Iran and the so-called P5+1 group was held in Istanbul in January 2011 and ended

in failure. Geneva hosted the round before that in late 2010.

Wendy Sherman, the under secretary of state for political affairs, is expected to repre-

sent the United States in any upcoming round of talks, State Department spokesman Mark Toner said.

### With three-primary win, .....

*continued from page 01*



His main rival for the Republican nomination, Rick Santorum, did not even rate a mention in Romney's speech, the morning after the former Pennsylvania senator was defeated in primaries in Wisconsin, Maryland and the capital Washington.

"We won them all! This really has been quite a night," Romney told supporters in Wisconsin, where he won by nearly five percentage points.

An undaunted Santorum vowed to fight on, barnstorming Wednesday across his home state of Pennsylvania, a key battleground where voters will go to the polls on April 24.

"There's a long way to go" in the Republican primaries race, Santorum told a few hundred people gathered at the local courthouse in Hollidaysburg.

"Getting the right candidate is more important than getting the first candidate."

On Tuesday night, Santorum said the field "looks a little different in May," referring to upcoming votes in more conservative states such as Texas.

But with delegates piling up in Romney's column, the electoral math told a different story, one of rapidly diminishing prospects for a Santorum candidacy despite strong support from religious conservatives.

Romney has 652 delegates after Tuesday's primaries, well over half the 1,144 needed to be crowned the Republican flag-bearer at the party's national convention in Tampa, Florida in August.

He is already acting like the nominee, training his political fire on Obama's "government-centered society" and no longer mentioning his Republican rivals on the campaign trail.

Romney must still overcome skepticism from conser-

vatives, who fear the ex-governor of liberal Massachusetts will tack to the left once he wins the nomination in order to appeal to the all-important independents.

"He now is halfway to the nomination, but only halfway," said Steffen Schmidt, a political scientist at Iowa State University. "He is the inevitable nominee, still tortured by the other three contenders in the GOP."

"There are still too many 'Anybody but Romney' Republicans so it will be a big effort to bring them on board," he said.

Santorum, a conservative Catholic and staunch opponent of abortion and gay marriage, virtually ignored Tuesday's contests in Maryland and the District of Columbia, to concentrate on the important midwestern state of Wisconsin.

But in the end, Romney had 43 percent of the vote to Santorum's 38 percent.

Romney won 49 percent to Santorum's 29 percent in Maryland and dominated with 70 percent in Washington, with former House speaker Newt Gingrich and Texas congressman Ron Paul trailing far behind in all three contests.

"Let's face it. Mitt Romney is going to be the nominee," said prominent Romney supporter Tim Pawlenty, a former Minnesota governor.

Romney has now won 24 out of 37 nominating contests. Santorum has racked up 11 victories and has well under half Romney's delegate count.

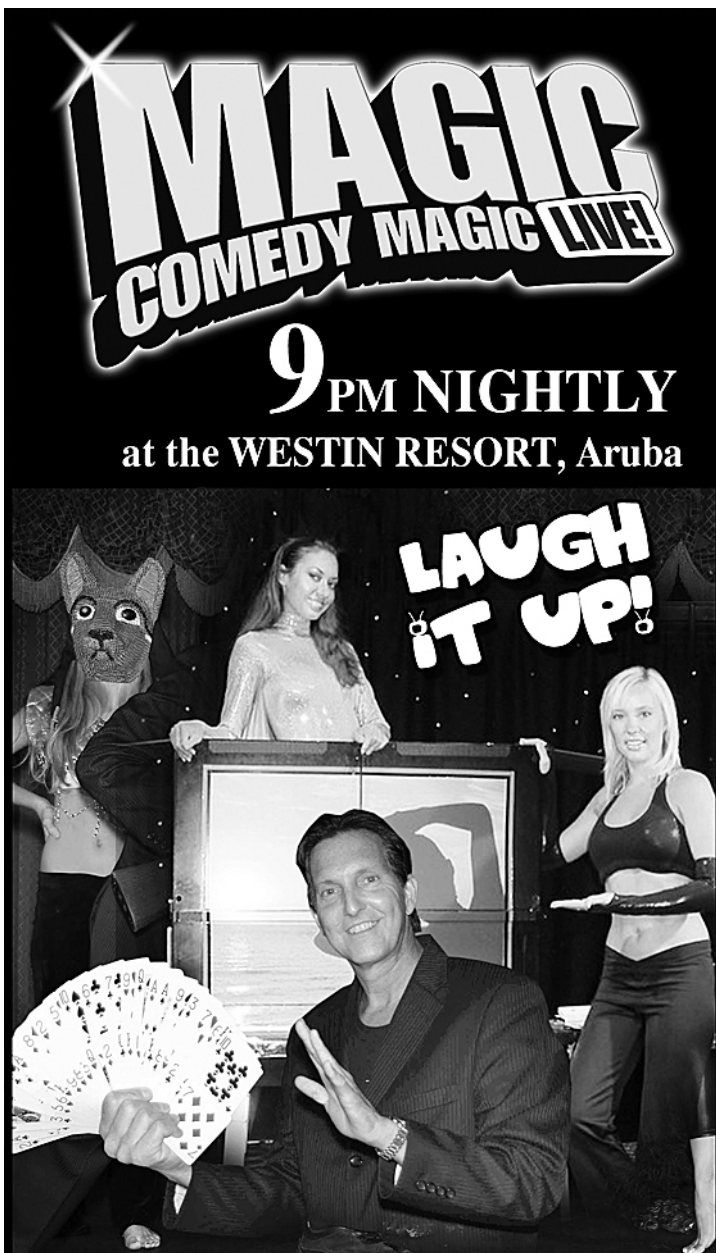


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**Dinner**  
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## Belgian charged with possessing millions of child sex images

BRUSSELS - (AFP) - A 53-year-old Belgian male nurse was charged with possession of millions of child sex images and sexually abusing 23 minors in Belgium, Brazil and Poland, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The man, identified as Marc S., is suspected of abusing 13 children in Brazil, five in Poland and five in Belgium, said a spokesman for the Brussels prosecutor's office.

The suspect was arrested in the northern Brazilian city of Belem in 2006 but he fled the country five days later when he was released pending a trial, according to the Flemish daily

De Morgen.

Belgian authorities, who were contacted by Brazilian counterparts, discovered 10 million child porn files on the suspect's computer in March and April 2011, including videos of the man abusing children, the prosecutor's office said.

The images indicate that the crimes committed in Belgium took place as far back as the 1980s and 1990s.

The suspect, who has been held in preventive detention since January 31, worked at the Saint-Alexius Psychiatric Centre in the Brussels suburb of Grimbergen.



## \$1000 Easter Free\* Slot Tournament

Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012

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For more information about the Slot Tournament, please contact our Players Advantage Club at 586-1234 ext. 4583.

## Mexico extradites alleged drug kingpin to US

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexico has extradited an alleged drug kingpin to the United States from the powerful Sinaloa cartel of Mexico's most wanted man Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman, Mexican officials said Wednesday.

Jesus Zambada was handed to US officials at the US-Mexico border on Tuesday and sent to a jail in New York, where he has been indicted in federal court, said an official from the attorney general's office.

Nicknamed "The King," Zambada is brother to Ismael "Mayo" Zambada, the alleged second-in-command of the powerful Sinaloa Federation, which is believed to operate in more than 48 countries.

He was detained in October 2008 after a shootout with police in the north of the Mexican capital and presented by the authorities as a leader within the notorious gang who had

worked to smuggle cocaine from South America.

He was accused of controlling imports of cocaine and precursor chemicals for synthetic drugs through Mexico City international airport.

The extradition is part of a five-year crackdown on drug gangs by the government of President Felipe Calderon, which has seen a rise of violence despite tens of thousands of soldiers deployed.

Some 50,000 deaths -- of suspected criminals, security forces and civilians -- have been blamed on drug violence since the campaign began in December 2006.

The Sinaloa cartel, based in the eponymous drug-trafficking northwestern state, has allied with other gangs in turf wars against the ultra-violent Zetas drug gang, according to the US Drug Enforcement Administration.



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## Health & Living

### Gene trawl shows clues, but also complexity, in autism

(AFP) - Researchers said on Wednesday they had found three more genes implicated in autism and turned up some evidence to explain why the disorder occurs more frequently among children of older parents.

Mutations in three genes called CHD8, SNC2A and KATNAL2 were found among children with so-called autism spectrum disorders (ASD), according to one of a trio of papers published in the journal Nature.

But many more faulty genes remain to be found and understanding how they do their disruptive work will be an even greater task, the authors said.

"We now have a good sense of the large number of genes involved in autism and have discovered about 10 percent of them," said Joseph Buxbaum, a professor of neuroscience at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York.

"We need to study many more parents and their affected children if we are to uncover the genes important in ASD. As these genes are fur-

ther characterised, this will lead to earlier diagnosis and novel drug development. This work is crucial for advancing autism treatment."

ASD describes a broad range of impairments in which an individual is unable or unwilling to communicate or interact with others, often crippling so.

Some patients have delays in their cognitive development, whereas others can have dazzling gifts in specific fields such as maths or music.

Previous research has found a strong, but poorly understood, inherited link to ASD.

But there are also many cases that occur in families where there is no known history of the disease.

Delving into this phenomenon of "sporadic" autism, a team from Yale University say they believe about 15 percent of cases occur in new gene mutations which occur at conception.

They are also more frequent in children born to older fathers, a finding that at least partially explains why there is an increased risk of autism in children of older parents.

But exactly how these mutations affect cerebral development is unclear.

The third paper, also probing "sporadic" autism, found that many of the new variants seemed to have no immediate connection with the disorder itself.

All three investigations were based on comparing the genome, or DNA code, between hundreds of individuals with ASD and those who do not have the disorder.

Once prohibitively expensive, gene sequencing has fallen dramatically in cost thanks to cheap computing, and this is proving a boon for fundamental research in health.

"Prior to the advent of new DNA sequencing technology, we were largely wandering in the dark searching for autism genes," said Yale researcher Matthew State.

"Now we are getting a clear view of the genetic landscape and finally have the tools in hand to find a large proportion of the many genes contributing to autism."

### 135 states agree anti-tobacco trafficking deal



lost in smuggling.

It would require signatory states to establish a tracking mechanism that could help detect and investigate any illegal trade in tobacco products.

Companies involved in the trade, including agents, suppliers and tobacco manufacturers, would

have to be licensed under the deal.

Manufacturers would also have to carry out checks on their customers to ensure that they are genuine or if they have associations with criminal organisations.

The products themselves would also have identification markings showing where they were produced, when they were produced and who were their first customers.

"If those products with identification markings fall out of the legal chain, then we can check who produced them, who is the first customer," said Walton-George.

"This would make sure that if there are bad apples in the chain, then we can take action to stop that leakage."

(AFP) - Negotiators from 135 nations sealed Wednesday a global deal to stem the illegal tobacco trade that could net governments \$50 billion more annually in tax revenues, the World Health Organisation said.

"Illicit trade in tobacco is one of the most dangerous trades at the moment, it's a way of getting cheap, illegal cigarettes into the hands of young people, poor people, people who are in a vulnerable position," said Ian Walton-George, who chaired the negotiations.

The protocol, to be put to a ministerial meeting in November in Seoul for adoption, would not only have a health impact, but could also help governments recover between \$40 and \$50 billion in duties

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## Sci-Tech

### Worst rains in 14 years wash out Ecuadoran farmers



BABAHYOY (AFP) - Thousands of poor Ecuadoran farmers are watching their livelihoods being washed away, hit by the worst rainfall in 14 years which has cost 24 lives and left a heart-breaking trail of damage.

"What the water gives, the water takes away," said elderly Francisco Barzola, sadly recounting how he has lost everything since the rains came at the start of the year.

"We are suffering with all this water that God has sent us, and which is now up to our necks," he said at his home in Los Compadres in the coastal province of Guayas, which stretches down to the Pacific Ocean.

And more misery is in sight, with the rains predicted to continue for another month in flooded coastal areas. Thousands of people have already been forced to flee, and 186 homes have been left waterlogged and uninhabitable.

Vast rural areas of the coast have been inundated, affecting some 80,000 people and the government has declared a state of emergency in Guayas, as well as in six other provinces.

The rising rain waters have now caused the worst flooding in Ecuador since the El Nino phenomenon left \$4 billion in water damage in 1997-1998, the worst in South American history.

But this time it is not the heating effect of El Nino on

the ocean surface which is causing the rain. Rather the current deluge is caused by a weather system bringing high humidity, weather experts said.

About 34,000 hectares of crops have been lost and another 9,000 hectares of rice and corn damaged.

Nearby, a house was completely surrounded by water as if it were stranded on an island, abandoned by its occupants and protected by a religious picture placed over the doorway.

In Salamina, the school, church and a park were flooded by a green, stinking water now infested by mosquitoes. The local government has closed schools for the next two weeks because of water damage.

Some parts of the road to Babahoyo, capital of the province of Los Rios, are so flooded that motorized canoes are being used throughout the area to transport people and belongings to safety.

Some local residents are also trying to earn a few dollars by guiding vehicles through the flooded roadways.

Juan Romero, one of the residents, said: "I have had to herd the cattle by swimming or canoeing. There are places you can't get through even on horseback."

He was keeping watch over a pasture where vultures hovered over the carcasses of drowned calves. "I hope that it stops raining," he said.



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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## Dutch court orders payment for Anne Frank's tree



THE HAGUE (AFP) - A foundation set up to preserve a chestnut tree mentioned by Jewish teenager Anne Frank in her World War II diary must pay 16,000 euros (\$21,000) for its clean-up, a Dutch court ruled Wednesday.

The Amsterdam-based Support Anne Frank Tree Foundation said however it did not have the money to pay a company responsible for the historic chestnut's removal and storage after it collapsed in strong winds in 2010.

"At the moment we don't have the money and probably never will," foundation official Arnold Heertje told AFP, following the judgment against it by the Amsterdam District Court.

The Van der Leij company in 2008 built a steel frame to support the diseased tree, some

20 metres (65 feet) tall and estimated to be more than 160 years old, which was overlooked by the annexe where Frank and her family hid from Nazi occupiers until found out in 1944.

After it was blown down in August 2010, Van der Leij cut the tree "into very large pieces which were stored in a dry and ventilated area," its spokesman Bram van Uchelen told AFP.

The court ordered the Support Anne Frank Tree Foundation to pay Van der Leij -- which lodged a claim -- 16,000 euros in removal and storage costs.

If no payment was received, Van der Leij was under no obligation to give back the tree's remains, the court said.

Anne Frank died in 1945 aged 15 at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in north-

ern Germany and the annexe where she hid while writing a diary is today a popular museum on Amsterdam's Keizersgracht.

She wrote in her diary on February 23, 1944: "The two of us looked at the blue sky, the bare chestnut tree glistening

with dew, the seagulls and other birds glinting with silver as they swooped though the air."

"We were so moved and entranced we couldn't speak."

Saplings from the chestnut were been planted around the world including in Paris and at

the White House before the tree buckled two years ago.

"In the beginning when the tree fell, museums and institutions showed interest -- they wanted a piece of the tree," Heertje said.

"But now interest has waned. It's unlikely that we will be contacted again."



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## Summary of the Monthly Bulletin of January 2012 shows: Aruban net foreign assets increases

ORANJESTAD -- The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) concludes in its Monthly Bulletin of January 2012 that the money supply grew by Afl. 45.1 million to Afl. 3,203.8 million, resulting from an Afl. 58.3 million increase in net foreign assets (excluding revaluation differences of gold and foreign exchange holdings) to Afl. 1,344.5 million at the end of January 2012. This increase was partially offset by an Afl 13.2

million decline in the domestic component of the money supply, attributed to an Afl. 17.6 million fall off in non-credit related balance sheet items, due largely to clearing transactions. On the other hand, domestic credit went up by Afl. 4.4 million, on balance the result of an Afl 8.4 million increase in claims on the private sector and an Afl. 4.0 million rise in net claims of the public sector on the banking sector. Commercial

loans and housing mortgages grew by, respectively, Afl. 8.9 million (+0.8 percent) and Afl. 2.8 million (+0.3 percent), while consumer credit declined by Afl 4.0 million (-0.7 percent).

The consumer price index (CPI) for January 2012 registered a 5.4 percent increase, compared to the same month of 2011. The main contributory components were housing, transport, and food items. When excluding the

effects of food and energy (which partly affect the housing and transport components), the resulting core CPI shows a 1.4 percent rise compared to January 2011, that is attributed to increased prices of the transport components excluding gasoline and diesel (airline tickets and new cars), communication (prepaid telephone cards), and recreation and culture (cable subscription). The 12-month average inflation rate reached 4.8 percent in January 2012.

The number of stay-over visitors totaled 72,020 in January 2012, which is 3.5 percent lower compared to January 2011. A drop of 6.6 percent in visitors from North America, which was partially offset by a 4.2 percent growth in visitors from Latin America, contributed to aforementioned decline. The decline in visitors from North America is due largely to the canceling of flights from New York and

Boston by American Airlines. The number of cruise visitors in January 2012 fell by 2,259 (-2.3 percent) to 94,917 passengers compared to the same month of the previous year, attributed mostly to the arrival of smaller ships.

Tax revenue for the month of January 2012 totaled Afl. 81.1 million, an increase of Afl. 14.4 million (+21.6 percent) compared to the same month of the previous year. Growth was recorded in most tax revenue categories, with the exception of taxes on services (Afl. 5.5 million), which was associated with the introduction of the tourist levy. Income from profit tax and taxes on commodities went up by, respectively, Afl. 7.8 million and Afl. 7.0 million. The latter was predominantly attributed to a rise in excises on gasoline (+Afl. 5.1 million). The turnover tax (BBO) rose marginally by Afl. 0.8 million.



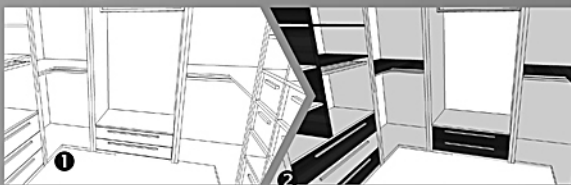
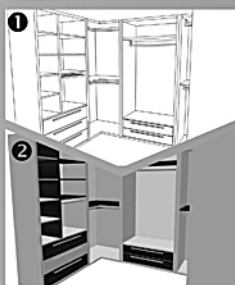
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Canada	CAD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Britain	GBP	2.76	2.81	2.87
Switzerland	CHF	194.30	195.02	195.82
Netherlands	EUR	231.95	234.07	236.42
Sweden	SEK	25.20	26.28	27.08
Denmark	DKK	30.50	31.22	32.02
Norway	NOK	29.94	30.66	31.46
Japan	JPY	214.33	216.29	218.46

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## Visit the Mario Hernandez shop for the finest in Latin American designer accessories



"It's all in the details," believes the owners of the Mario Hernandez shop in the Paseo Herencia Mall "The fine handcraftsmanship and classic styling of the Mario Hernandez ac-

cessories have placed them in high demand around the world, and we are proud to have the only MH store on Aruba."

The cozy little shop can be found tucked away just across from The Cinemas ticket booth, featuring fine quality leather goods with a trendy touch, the best of the current Mario Hernandez designer collection. It also features a stylish selection of the designer's logo unisex shirts and stunning silk scarves.

The Mario Hernandez collection encompasses luggage, handbags and wallets of every sort, with



specialized functions. "Our men's accessories are extremely popular; literally flying off the shelves," note the owners. Since they opened their doors, they have found patrons are very impressed with the quality and style of the goods.

Mario Hernandez has been creating and designing products for over 30



years; his name is synonymous with manufacturing excellence and innovation in design. The store in Paseo Herencia Mall in Palm Beach is opened until 10:00 PM for convenient night-time shopping and boasts the latest collection of these timelessly styled accessories, each of them handcrafted at the Bogotá factory.







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## Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates from Boston, Massachusetts, residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S. franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too



Gouda Burger 2

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh

Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for the owners when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit



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## Real stroll, Chelsea squeeze through to CL semis

PARIS (AFP) - Nine-time champions Real Madrid and Chelsea both booked their places in the Champions League semi-finals on Wednesday but in vastly different fashions.

Real beat the surprise packages of the competition APOEL Nicosia 5-2 at the Bernabeu - Cristiano Ronaldo scoring a double to take him to 49 goals for the season - and an 8-2 aggregate win to seal a semi-final meeting with four-time winners Bayern Munich.

Chelsea, though, look far from being able to cope with holders Barcelona in their last four meeting if they repeat their performance in the wobbly 2-1 home win - 3-1 on aggregate - over a Benfica side that was down to 10 men after 40 minutes.

The visitors played the more fluent football and deservedly equalised six minutes from time before Chelsea's Portuguese substitute Raul Meireles sealed the

Blues place in the last four for the sixth time in nine years.

It will be their fifth semi-final meeting with Barcelona, with the Catalans holding a 3-1 advantage.

Lampard, though, refused to accept that the match would be too big a challenge for them.

"You have to respect Barcelona because they are the best side in the world," said Lampard.

"They will obviously start as favourites but we have a lot of self belief and we believe we can beat them."

Chelsea had looked to be cruising when Javi Garcia bundled over Ashley Cole in the penalty area and Frank Lampard squeezed home the resulting penalty in the 21st minute despite 'keeper Artur getting a hand to it.

It was the England veteran's 22nd Champions League goal and 184th for the club.

The odds were stacked further against Benfica in the 40th minute when their skip-

per for the game Uruguayan Maxi Pereira went in studs showing on Jon Obi Mikel and was sent off for a second bookable offence.

The hosts should have made it 2-0 in the 50th minute and only Brazilian midfielder Ramires will

know how he failed to tap into an empty net from a yard out after being set up by Salomon Kalou.

Real coach Jose Mourinho was happy with his team's performance but reserved most of the praise for his opponents.

"I can't criticise my team,

we are here on merit (the semi-finals)," he said.

"For APOEL to get to the quarter-finals is the biggest achievement of this season's Champions League, bigger than if ourselves, Bayern or Barca win the competition, so I am happy for them."



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## Beach Boys to open Dodgers game, ahead of tour



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The Beach Boys will sing the national anthem at the Los Angeles Dodgers home opening

game next week as part of a season-long deal, the baseball club said this week.

The Dodgers tie-in comes

as the iconic Californian band prepares to start a 50th anniversary reunion tour later this month, which will include dates in Japan in August.

The Dodgers deal is to celebrate the 50th birthdays of both the band and the team's iconic Dodger Stadium, and will include co-branded merchandise featuring the band's 50th anniversary logo and the stadium's 50th anniversary logo.

"It's very special to us that we get to celebrate our 50 years alongside the Dodgers, a team we all love," said the Beach Boys in a statement released by the Dodgers.

"Generations of fans have supported our music just as much as their Boys in Blue and we're very happy to celebrate both LA traditions at Dodger Stadium this Opening Day."

Dodgers official Tommy Lasorda said the team was "so pleased to share our golden anniversary with another California icon... Singing the national anthem any time is an honor, but especially on Opening Day."

Lasorda said he was "looking forward to their performance" next Tuesday, which will include a song by the Beach Boys and their rendition of the national anthem on

the field at Dodger stadium.

The Beach Boys -- Brian Wilson, Mike Love, Al Jardine, Bruce Johnston and David Marks -- made their first reunion appearance at the Grammys in February, after announcing their 50th anniversary tour last year.

The tour will start on April 24 in Tucson, Arizona and will continue around the US in May, June and July, before three dates in August in Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya, Japan.

The band is also set to release a new album, and will issue a number of commemorative releases in 2012, including a new hits collection and a career-spanning box set.

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## Rivals expect Tiger to roar at Masters once more



AUGUSTA, Georgia (AFP) - Tiger Woods has recovered the form that brought him 14 major titles and rivals at the 76th Masters expect him to produce roars from the crowd and at least a hint of his once-invincible aura.

Woods snapped a 2 1/2-year US PGA win drought two weeks ago at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, his first tour-level triumph since the infamous 2009 sex scandal that rocked the golf world and destroyed his iconic marketing image.

"It was a huge win for him to be successful this week," three-time Masters champion Phil Mickelson said. "He's going to have a great week. To have won heading into this week gives him a lot of confidence. Sucks for us."

Woods, chasing the record 18 major titles won by Jack Nicklaus, has not won a major crown since the 2008 US Open, when he limped through a playoff to beat Rocco Mediate, and has not won a Masters since taking his fourth in 2005.

"From a golf point of view, it's good to have Tiger playing well," World No. 3 Lee Westwood of England said. "He encourages another level of golf spectator to the game. He draws in people that might only watch the majors."

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## Female suicide bomber kills Somali sports chiefs

MOGADISHU (AFP) - A female suicide bomber blew herself up Wednesday during an address by Somalia's prime minister in Mogadishu, killing four people including the country's Olympic and football bosses.

The young woman detonated her suicide belt as Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali was addressing 200 people at the newly reopened national theatre on the first anniversary of the launch of Somalia's satellite TV network.

Somali Olympic Committee

president Aden Yabarow Wiish and Somali Football Federation chief Said Mohamed Nur were killed in the blast, which was claimed by Al-Qaeda affiliated Shebab rebels.

The prime minister and seven other ministers standing beside him when the bomber detonated her explosives, were unharmed.

"There are four dead, including the president of the Olympic committee and the president of the football federation," Abdirahman Omar Osman, the Somali prime minister's spokesman, told AFP.

Seconds after the blast, chaos filled the theatre as the dead and the wounded were slumped on chairs or lying on the floor while police escorted some of the injured to awaiting ambulances.

At least seven journalists were also wounded, press freedom watchdog Reporters Without Borders said.

The president of football's world governing body FIFA, Sepp Blatter, expressed shock at the death of the two Somali sports chiefs.

"I knew both men personally and can only say good

things about their endless efforts to promote sport and

football in their country. They will be sorely missed," he said.

Thursday  
Mr Golden Oldies  
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